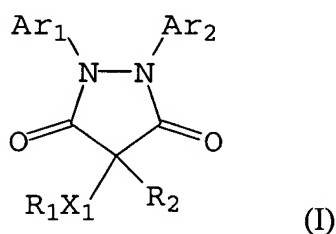


IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-26 (canceled)

27. (new) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula I

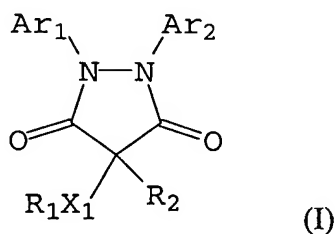


wherein Ar₁ and Ar₂ are phenyl optionally substituted with hydroxy, thiol, C₁-C₆ alkoxy, cyano or halo, X₁ is O or S, R₁ is hydrogen or a hydroxyl or thiol protecting group and R₂ is H or a C₁-C₁₀ alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkaryl or arylsulphonylalkyl group, with the proviso that if said composition contains any 3,5-pyrazoladine dione having neither a 4-hydroxy nor a 4-thiol group then the relative weight ratio of said 3,5-pyrazoladine dione having neither a 4-hydroxy nor a 4-thiol group to said compound of formula I is not more than 98:2.

28. (new) A composition as claimed in claim 27 wherein R₁ is hydrogen or acyl.

29. (new) A composition as claimed in claim 27 wherein R₂ is n-propyl, n-butyl, n-pentyl, 1-methylbut-2-en-4-yl, phenyl, benzyl, methylphenyl or phenylsulphonylethyl.

30. (new) A composition as claimed in claim 27 wherein X_1 is oxygen.
31. (new) A composition as claimed in claim 27 wherein Ar_1 and Ar_2 are independently phenyl optionally substituted with hydroxy or cyano groups.
32. (new) A composition as claimed in claim 27 wherein said weight ratio is not more than 50:50
33. (new) A composition as claimed in claim 27 wherein said weight ratio is not more than 10:90
34. (new) A method of treatment of the human or non-human body to combat a viral disease, an inflammatory disease, an autoimmune disease or tissue rejection, wherein said method comprises administering to said body a compound of formula I



wherein Ar_1 and Ar_2 are phenyl optionally substituted with hydroxy, thiol, C_1 - C_6 alkoxy, cyano or halo, X_1 is O or S, R_1 is hydrogen or a hydroxyl or thiol protecting group and R_2 is H or

a C₁-C₁₀ alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkaryl or arylsulphonylalkyl group, with the proviso that the relative weight ratio of any 3,5-pyrazoladine dione having neither a 4-hydroxy nor a 4-thiol group to said compound of formula I is not more than 98:2.

35. (new) A composition as claimed in claim 34 wherein said weight ratio is not more than 50:50.

36. (new) A composition as claimed in claim 34 wherein said weight ratio is not more than 10:90.

37. (new) A method as claimed in claim 34 wherein said disease is selected from Addison's disease, Beçhet's syndrome, diabetes mellitus, haemolytic anaemia, lupus erythematosus, multiple sclerosis, myasthenia gravis, pernicious anaemia, polyglandular deficiency, polymyositis, dermatomyositis, testicular failure, thrombocytopenic purpura, Crohns disease, ulcerative colitis and rheumatoid arthritis.

38. (new) A method as claimed in claim 34 wherein said disease is a disease caused by a pathogen from the group of togaviridea, reoviridea, picornaviridea, hantaviridea, orthomyxoviridea, paramyxoviridea, mononegaviralis, viral hepatitis, haemorrhagic fevers, flaviviridea, viral encephalitis, coronaviridea, calciviridea, adenoviridea, papovaviridea, arboviridea, pox virus, rhabdoviridea, arenaviridea, HIV-1, HIV-2, HTLV-I, HTLV-II and herpes viruses.